

NEWS

POPE FRANCIS MAKES HISTORY WITH VISIT TO IRAQ

With this trip Pope Francis hoped to build an international religious coalition for peace, including not only Christians and Muslims but believers of other faiths. Read the article on [America](#).

CRA SUPPORTS WATAC INVITATION TO WOMEN DELEGATES TO PLENARY COUNCIL

Women and the Australian Church (WATAC) with the support of the ACU and CRA have invited women delegates to the Plenary Council to meet in person or by Zoom for conversation and sharing. One of the aims of WATAC is to encourage a model of church based on a discipleship of equals. Invitations to CRA members who are Plenary Council delegates have been sent. The meeting will be held 29 April.

CATHOLIC WOMEN INVITED TO NATIONAL CONSULTATION

Catholic women are being invited to participate in a national consultation via Zoom on March 27. The event invites women to articulate and celebrate their contribution to and vision for the mission of the Catholic Church in Australia. The event is being organised by the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry. Read the [media release](#) or find more information at [National Centre for Evangelisation](#). Registration is required.

PALMS AUSTRALIA CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF CREATING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TO POVERTY

Palms Australia believes enabling people to open their palms and reach beyond every barrier of culture, religion, nationality and gender will empower cooperation to achieve a just, sustainable, interdependent and peaceful world free of poverty. [Philippa Murphy FDNSC](#), the Provincial Leader of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart has recently joined the Palms Board of Directors. Read how [Palms pioneers made a difference](#), or listen to their [podcast](#).

A DUTY OF CARE: AUSTRALIANA TEENAGERS TAKE THEIR CLIMATE CRISIS PLEA TO COURT

Eight teenagers and Sr Brigid Arthur, an 86-year-old nun and former teacher who volunteered to be their litigation guardian, head to an Australian court to launch what they hope will prove to be a landmark case – one that establishes the federal government’s duty of care in protecting generations from a worsening climate crisis. Read the [article on The Guardian](#).

AN INVITATION TO SHARE YOUR VIEWS ON AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE

The Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) is a national network of community, peace and faith organisations, environment groups, trade unions and individuals concerned about the social, economic, environmental, military and political costs of Australia's involvement with the USA and US-led wars. IPAN invites community members to make submissions on their views and concerns; for Terms of Reference and how to submit go to [IPAN's website](#). Attached is a [letter inviting submissions](#), a [Public Enquiry flyer](#) and information about their [next webinar](#) on 25 March.

NEW CHURCH LEADERS FORMATION NETWORK TO HELP GROW FAITH IN OCEANIA

A new Church leaders' network and formation platform was launched at the Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Australia Oceania Leaders Training Day on Monday 1 March. Over 150 educators and Church leaders across Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga, and the Solomon Islands participated via Zoom alongside local group gatherings. Read the [ACU media release](#).

JESUIT COMMUNICATIONS LAUNCHES 2021 AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS YOUNG VOICES AWARDS

The Young Voices Awards, offering students around Australia the chance to advocate on issues of importance to them and the opportunity to be published in the largest circulation Catholic print publication in the country. Read the [media release here](#).

EVENTS/WEBINARS

PASSION FOR THE EARTH

Frank Richardson FMS is offering a *Laudato Si'* Camp for adults who wish to engage in a time of sharing and learning about what it means to care for the life and beauty of our common home, Earth. The program has been endorsed by Bishop Vincent Long. See the [flyer](#).

Date: 6 to 8 July 2021

Venue: Guntawang Catholic Youth Centre, Wooglemai, near Oakdale, NSW

Fee: \$95 (\$75 for students)

Registration: by email: antiphon1@outlook.com or by phone: 0429 595 231

CRA EVENTS

- [CRA NSW Leaders and Teams Dinner](#) (download the [flyer](#)) Thursday, 25 March 2021
- [CRA Professional Development & Networking Day for Administrators](#) Monday 3 May, North Sydney, NSW (Download the [flyer](#))
- [CRA Health & Well-Being Weekend Retreat for Male Leaders of Religious Institutes](#) 16 to 18 July, Mittagong, NSW (download the [flyer](#))
- [CRA 2021 National Assembly](#) Monday 2 to Thursday 5 August, Novotel Parramatta, Sydney NSW

RESOURCES

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN PREACH

The new podcast Australian Women Preach was launched on 8 March, International Women’s Day and is now live. It will feature 30 Australian Christian women preaching the Gospel, including CRA’s VP Patty Fawcner SGS, Jacqui Rémond, and Patricia Gemmel. The podcasts will run the 30 weeks leading into the historic Plenary Council in October 2021. Week 1 can be accessed from the [website](#). There is also a 5-minutes introduction to the podcast. Read the [media release here](#).

SEEKING GOD IN SCRIPTURE

CRA member, Steele Hartmann OCSO, Abbot of Tarrawarra Abbey in Victoria, a member of Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance, has written a book entitled *Seeking God in Scripture*. It has been [reviewed by Tony Percy](#), VG Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, in which he describes the book as “precise, practical, pertinent and perfect.” Learn more or order the book from the [Coventry Press website](#).

UPDATE FROM THE COMMISSIONS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

A new guide has been released to support organisations that work with children and young people. [Empowerment and participation: A guide for organisations working with children and young people](#) has been developed by Victoria’s Commission for Children and Young People, the New South Wales Office of the Children’s Guardian, and the Australian Centre for Child Protection at the University of South Australia.

NEW BOOKS HONOURING DENIS EDWARDS – ATF PRESS

Denis Edwards in His Own Words

This volume of essays brings together 37 papers by Denis Edwards covering many subjects including: the ordination of women, Indigenous theology, comparison of John of the Cross and Karl Rahner, multicultural issues in the Australian context, amongst many others. Click here to [find out more and to order the book](#).

God In The Natural World

Denis Edwards was a theologian of dialogue: dialogue with our rich theological tradition, dialogue with science, dialogue with contemporary theologians. The contributors to this volume enter into a dialogue with substantial parts of the theological output of Denis Edwards. [Find out more and order the book](#).

The Natural World and God

Astronomers, cosmologists, and evolutionary biologists have opened new ways of seeing the community of life on Earth, and its place in the universe. At the same time we are facing a crisis of life on our planet. Both of these realities demand that we rethink our theology of animals, plants, ecosystems, as well as galaxies and stars. In this book, Denis Edwards collects together a series of explorations into this kind of theology. Click here to [find out more and to order the book](#).

REDEMPTORIST COMMUNICATIONS

From Brazil to Dublin to Cork, the Redemptoristines and Redemptorists take on the Jesursalema Challenge – [watch them dance](#) and let them lighten our hearts.

LAUGHTER THERAPY

A LITTLE FARM HUMOUR....

